

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 487

Recognizing Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Selma, Alabama, as a symbol of the struggle for and achievement of voting rights for African-Americans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 1996

Mr. HILLIARD (for himself, Miss COLLINS of Michigan, Mr. FLAKE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. STOKES, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. WYNN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DIXON, Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. WATERS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. FORD, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. MCKINNEY, and Mr. BISHOP) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

RESOLUTION

Recognizing Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Selma, Alabama, as a symbol of the struggle for and achievement of voting rights for African-Americans.

Whereas Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Selma, Alabama, is a historic site because of its use as a meeting place for many courageous people who fought to secure the right to vote and other civil rights for disenfranchised African-Americans;

Whereas in Brown Chapel on January 2, 1965, Martin Luther King, Jr. called for a demonstration and proclaimed to a crowd of hundreds, “We will seek to arouse the Federal Government by marching by the thousands to the places of registration. . . Give us the ballot”;

Whereas in 1965 Brown Chapel was a meeting place for hundreds of people before the historic civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama;

Whereas in 1965 the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, was the impetus for Federal action to abolish the unconstitutional practice of administering “literacy tests” to African-Americans for the sole purpose of reducing the number of African-American voters so that there existed little threat to segregation laws and practices; and

Whereas Brown Chapel has historic significance as a place where those fighting for civil rights for African-Americans could meet, organize, worship, and find refuge: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-
2 nizes Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
3 in Selma, Alabama, as a symbol of—

4 (1) the struggle and sacrifice of many coura-
5 geous people who sought to secure civil rights for
6 African-Americans; and

7 (2) the successful effort to secure for African-
8 Americans a civil right fundamental to all Ameri-

- 1 cans, yet difficult for African-Americans to obtain—
- 2 the right to vote.

